

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Replace the sheet of drawings containing Figure 7 with the accompanying
Replacement Sheet containing the same numbered figure.

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated March 8, 2007, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims and objections to the disclosure.

The drawings were objected to as not showing the built-in ionizer. In response to the Examiner's request, a revised version of Figure 7 is being submitted herewith. In the revised figure, reference numeral 2610 has been added, to identify the location of the ionizer. The specification has been amended to conform with this change in the figure.

The specification has also been revised to employ the alternative spelling of the word "ionizing", as requested by the Examiner, and to specify that the claimed subject matter is directed to a hair dryer. Support for this latter change can be found in the original specification, for example at page 1, line 13.

Claim 1 has been amended as suggested, to overcome the objection appearing in section 4 of the Office Action.

Claims 1-4 and 12-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, on the basis of the Polaert et al. patent (US 5,790,749) in view of the Walter et al. patent (US 4,260,875) and the Schilling et al. patent (US 5,396,047). The remaining claims were rejected on the basis of these three patents, in view of additional references. To clarify the distinctions over the prior art, claim 1 has been amended to specify that the claims are directed to a hair dryer. In addition, the claim recites that the non-dissipative power reduction scheme includes selectively turning the heating elements on and off alternately and repeatedly at zero crossings of an alternating current power supply during a power reduction operation. In addition, claim 3 has been

amended to recite that the heating elements are turned on and off at zero crossings of the alternating power supply so that the first and second heating elements are actuated respectively at positive and negative portions of the alternating current power supply.

It is respectfully submitted that the claimed subject matter is not suggested by the applied references. The Polaert and Walter patents are directed to hair dryers. As recognized in the Office Action, neither of these patents discloses the use of a non-dissipative power reduction scheme upon detection of received temperature information indicating a temperature exceeding a pre-determined threshold, particularly one in which first and second heating elements are selectively turned on and off alternately and repeatedly at zero crossings of an alternating current power supply.

In contrast to the Polaert and Walter patents, the Schilling patent is not directed to a hair dryer. Rather, it is concerned with the regulation of heat over the area of a cooking surface. It discloses a pair of concentric heating elements that can be separately regulated to keep two different portions of the surface area at the same temperature. It is respectfully submitted that a person of ordinary skill in the art would not be led to incorporate this teaching into a hair dryer. The problem of evenly regulating heat over the area of a cooking surface does not apply to a hair dryer. Hence, there is no reason to refer to the disclosure of the Schilling patent in the context of a hair dryer.


Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims, and issuance
of a notice of allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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